

NEVADA Connections

Produced by Community College Southern Nevada to connect resources for Nevada's adult workforce

Volume 7 Number 3

September 2001

GED 2002: Connecting the pieces for Nevada

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The atmosphere at the 2001 Annual GED Administrators' Conference was charged with excitement, challenge and concern. A hotel in the historic district of Charleston, SC was host to several hundred GED administrators, GEDTS (GED Testing Service) staff, vendors, guests, and other interested parties. The focus of the conference was "GED 2002 — Transforming Tradition." The theme, "The Pieces Will Fit," was exemplified by a partially constructed international GED quilt. (Nevada's quilt square was one of 20 that have been submitted.)

The following are key points gleaned from the conference:

- Of utmost concern is test security. With technological advances, a "stolen" GED test could be on the Internet and distributed around the world within minutes. Every precaution will need to be taken to ensure that the tests are not compromised.
- Scores will be changed to correlate to other high-stakes tests: 20 will become 200, 40 will be 400, etc. This will require an amendment to the Nevada Administrative Code.
- Tests do not have to be given in any particular order except that Math, Part I must be completed before Math, Part II.
- At the national level, language has been changed when referring to a GED — from certificate or credential to diploma. (In many states a diploma is awarded to students for successful completion of the GED tests.)
- GED tests are designed and validated ONLY for earning a high school "diploma." Waiving adult high school credit for GED test completion is prohibited.
- There must be separation between assessment and instruction. No one may teach GED preparation and be a GED Examiner.
- Chief and Alternate Examiners shall hold at least a bachelor's degree and possess experience in teaching, counseling, or testing. (Current Alternate Examiners may be grandfathered in; however after January 1, 2002, examiners must meet new qualifications.)
- All jurisdictions must comply with electronic specifications.



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- Transported secure materials shall be stored in an approved, secure location. This may be on site, at a nearby police department, a bank, etc.
- Practice tests will be available through Steck-Vaughn in September or October. This will include both paper and computer versions.

It will take all of us to make the pieces fit here in Nevada. The State office has scheduled a mandatory workshop for all GED Chief and Alternate Examiners on October 18 and 19 in Reno. (A memo will be sent out by September 1 to all test sites.) Training for teachers is also available. Please refer to the following page for contact information.

New connections for GED instructors ...

The following seasoned ABE instructors have been trained to provide training for Nevada's teachers and tutors on the new GED 2002 exam:



Val Lyons-Brady	Reno 775.575.6822 valbrady@thegrid.net
Robbyn Tolles	Reno 775.677.8686 rtolles@aol.com
Wendy Raynor	Winnemucca 775.623.6218 wraynor@join.org
Dimi Jefferis	Las Vegas 702.651.4067 dimi_jefferis@ccsn.nevada.edu
Jeanie Thibault	Las Vegas 702.651.4065 jeanie_thibault@ccsn.nevada.edu

Shown from left: Wendy Raynor, Jeanie Thibault, Dimi Jefferis, Robbyn Tolles, Nevada ABE Training Coordinator Rachael Dilling, and Val Lyons-Brady.

Jean Perry-Jones (702.799.3400, ext. 222, cubbycat@earthlink.net) has also been trained and will service the training needs of adult high school programs.

... and their students

Beginning September 5th, KNPB Channel 5, public television in northern Nevada, will begin broadcasting the new GED series, *GED Connection*, Wednesdays at midnight. GED students are encouraged to record the series.

GED Connection is a new telecourse designed to help students prepare for the revised GED exam, which becomes effective January 2001. The series covers all five subject areas of the exam, addressing both format and content.

Like the old *GED on TV* series, *GED Connection* consists of 30-minute videos and a set of workbooks, all with lessons designed for studying to prepare for the tests. "However," said Pat Miller, Education Vice-president at Channel 5, "these video lessons are much more based in real-world experiences, emphasizing the process of building skills in critical thinking, problem-solving and decision-making. I believe that the *GED Connection* will be a very significant resource for Nevada instructors and for their students."

Broadcast of *GED Connection* is a product of PBS LiteracyLink[®], a project designed to develop new technology-based resources for adult learners. Channel 5 will continue its role as an innovation hub for PBS LiteracyLink[®], testing new technology-based resources for ESL study through Project Connect.

... and assessors and reporters

Paul Marsala has been certified as a CASAS Certified State Level Trainer for Nevada. He is training two others to conduct on-site implementation training as well. CASAS is the assessment system approved for Nevada's adult literacy programs by the Nevada Adult Education Office. Contact Paul at 775.829.9026, pmarsala@tmcc.edu.

Dimi Jefferis has been certified by CASAS as a TOPSpro State Trainer and is also available for on-site training and assistance. TOPSpro is a software program developed by CASAS; it is used to report student outcomes via the annual Federal Report Tables. Contact Dimi at 702.651.4067 (Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays are best) or via e-mail: dimi_jefferis@ccsn.nevada.edu.

Nevada's federally funded ABE (Adult Basic Education) programs use CASAS and TOPSpro. The training provided by Paul and Dimi complement each other.

Nevada Literacy Coalition goes on-site with orientation and resources

—Susan Graf, Nevada Literacy Coalition, 800.445.9673, 775.684.3340, sfgraf@clan.lib.nv.us

With significant funding support from the Nevada State Library and Archives (Library Services and Technology Act), the Nevada Literacy Coalition is placing literacy materials in your local library! All of the holdings of the State Literacy Resource Center (SLRC) are available through checkout; however, we wanted to place books, electronic resources and videos on-site at each library for your use. Approximately \$20,000 will be spent on materials between now and April 2002.

Each rural library will receive a copy of *Culture Grams*, which contains descriptions of customs and cultural backgrounds for countries from throughout the world — a helpful resource for those working with recent immigrants. *LITSMART*, published by the Michigan Department of Education, is a handbook that will be helpful to those who are tutoring adult learners. The new *EFF (Equipped For the Future): What Adults Need to Know and Be Able to Do in the 21st Century*, GED 2002 materials, and other resources will also be available on-site at rural public libraries.

The SLRC will continue to host orientations throughout the state. These training sessions are geared to familiarizing public library staff with literacy resources and materials. From administration to curriculum development to ESL and workplace literacy materials—you will find what you need at your local library!



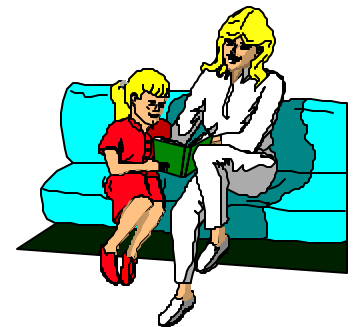
Katherine Tolleson, Beatty Library, reviews ESL materials to be placed in the library.

PAT training coming to Nevada

—Angela Triche, Director, SCF-PIRC, 702.648.1885, abtriche@sunrisechildren.org

The Sunrise Children's Foundation-Parent Information and Resource Center of Nevada (SCF-PIRC), will host a statewide Parents As Teachers parent educator training this fall. Parents As Teachers (PAT) is a home-based model with a proud history of helping parents to be their children's best first teachers. The training will focus on the Born to Learn curriculum for prenatal to 3 years and is tentatively planned for November 26-30, 2001 in Las Vegas. Trainees must be affiliated with a new or existing PAT program. The cost for the five-day training is \$575.00, and the curriculum cost is \$275.00.

SCF-PIRC is one of 58 Parent Information and Resource Centers established by the U.S. Department of Education throughout the nation. Nevada's PIRC offers a rich variety of free programs and services, including the Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY), Parents As Teachers (PAT), free parent-to-parent assistance and activities, a "warm" phone line for parents' questions and concerns, a referral network, workshops, a Web site, and a host of additional services offered through local, state, and national partnerships.



The proportion of businesses that viewed lack of skills as a barrier to growth increased from 27percent in 1993 to nearly 70 percent by 1998.

— Source: Coopers & Lybrand Trendsetters Barometer

Connecting resources for Nevada's adult workforce

Update on funded adult literacy programs

Here is a list of Nevada's federally funded literacy (Adult Basic Education) Programs of Instruction:

Connie Barker	C.A.L.L.	Las Vegas	702.382.3493	barkerc@lvccld.lib.nv.us
Suzanne Graves	Lahontan Valley Lit. Volunteers	Fallon	775.423.8583	gravess@churchill.k12.nv.us
Terri Kaulentis	Comm. College of Southern NV	Las Vegas	702.651.4892	terri_kaulentis@ccsn.nevada.edu
Meachell LaSalle	Great Basin College	Elko	775.753.2109	meachell@gbcnv.edu
Paul Marsala	Truckee Meadows Comm. Coll.	Reno	775.829.9026	pmarsala@tmcc.edu
Vicki Newell	Northern NV Literacy Council	Sparks	775.356.1007	director@nnlc.reno.nv.us
Ronna Timpa	Catholic Charities of So. NV	Las Vegas	702.693.6761	rtimpa@yahoo.com
Teri Zutter	Western NV Community College	Carson City	775.445.4453	tzutter@wncc.nevada.edu

Bucks for Books ...

Laubach Literacy International is accepting grant applications for its National Book Scholarship Fund (NBSF). Submission deadline is December 6, 2001. NBSF grants distribute New Readers Press books and educational materials to qualified adult literacy providers in the U.S.

Contact: Mara Roberts, 315.422.9121
extension 345, mroberts@laubach.org,
www.nbsf.org

... and from the Bushes

The goal of the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy grant program is to develop and expand family literacy efforts nationwide and to support the development of literacy programs that build families of readers. FY 2002 applications are available: Tamara Rosado, 202.955.6183, sooc@erols.com,
www.barbarabushfoundation.com